

**Charter
Office for Co-Occurring Disorders
March 2006**

A. History

Since 1995, the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) has been working with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and others, on projects and programs aimed at helping persons who are simultaneously suffering from mental health and substance abuse disorders.

In 2003, the two departments established a Co-Occurring Disorders (COD) Workgroup to recommend strategies to improve treatment outcomes for persons with co-occurring disorders. The COD workgroup has been incorporated into the Co-Occurring Disorders Joint Action Council (COJAC) which has representatives from governmental agencies and non-profit provider groups.

The COJAC has developed, and is providing leadership for the implementation of a COD State Action Plan for California. The COJAC recognized that it could not achieve its objectives without adequate staff support from the two state agencies sponsoring this effort. With the assistance of the DMH, funding has been providing to the ADP to assign three staff. In addition, the DMH has designated two staff positions who will dedicate a portion of their time to the work of the COJAC.

B. Office Term and Funding

The new COD office within the ADP will be receiving funds from the Mental Health Services Act for a three year period consistent with annual Budget Act authority. For fiscal year 2005-06, \$248,000 has been budgeted in support of the ADP staff assigned to this program.

C. Office Functions and Tasks

The new Office will achieve its purpose by providing for the functions and tasks listed below. Other functions and tasks may be added as determined by the COJAC, the DMH, and the ADP.

1. Collaborate with the COJAC, the DMH, and others in recommending policies, programs and projects addressing COD.

*Contact the California Institute for Mental Health, the Alcohol and Drug Policy Institute, non-profit service providers, consumers, and others to help insure a broad base of participation in policy, program, and project development.

*Participate in discussions between DMH staff and other organizations regarding screening, funding, licensing, housing and other COD related issues.

2. Provide assistance to policy makers who are providing leadership to the COD State Action Plan for California.

*Accomplish tasks needed in support of the COJAC, i.e. developing draft policies, seeking data from outside parties, etc.

*Conduct research with other organizations and agencies that are doing similar work.

3. Assist counties and other providers who are addressing persons with COD or those at high risk of the disorder.

*Participate on the Transition Age Youth (TAY) Committee and the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA).

*Collaborate with the Human Resources Committee of the California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC) and the Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC).

4. Recommend workforce development training for counties and other providers addressing COD issues.

*Seek training needs and resource information from various groups including, but not limited to; CMHDA, CADPAAC, CiMH and the ADPI.

*Participate in the annual County of Los Angeles COD Conference and other events which may be useful in making Office staff more informed and effective.

5. Provide technical assistance by conducting COD related research, collecting and disseminating data.

*Subscribe to a dual diagnosis list serve.

*Develop and maintain a COJAC/COD website.

*Use the ADP Resource Center for research and technical assistance.

*Utilize the resources with the ADP including but not limited to, the Office of Applied Research and Analysis, and the Office of Prevention Services.

6. Assist the DMH and the ADP to blend their respective services into local programs that will effectively serve persons with COD.

*Work with the respective county administrators' association COD committees to plan and implement strategies for serving persons with COD.

*Work with program and policy staff within the ADP and the DMH to examine current program and to identify strategies for improvement.

D. Office Location, Staffing and Name

The Office will be located within the Program Services Division of the ADP at 1700 K Street in Sacramento. The staff will consist of one permanent staff (Staff Manager I), two limited term (2 years) Associate Governmental Program Analysts, and one part-time consultant retained from Public Employment Services Authority. The office will be designated as the Office for Co-occurring Disorders (COD Office).